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# Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 81,287 | Nifty 25,178 | Gold 1,61,730 | Silver 2,71,400 | Dollar 91.08 | Euro 107.28 | GBP 123.01

## CLIPPED WINGS

Several towns that once had fledgling air links back to watching empty skies after scaling down of Centre's UDAN scheme

PAGE 7

## DOWN TO THE WIRE

Sahibzada shines in Pakistan victory, but team out of race; India vs West Indies excitement today

PAGE 9

**As pumping station is just getting built, sewage is being let into the storm water drain from where it is entering the Gottigere Lake that was rejuvenated just 3 years ago at Rs 2.50 crore**

# LAKE OR CESSPOOL?

## Citizens say lake facing one problem after the other

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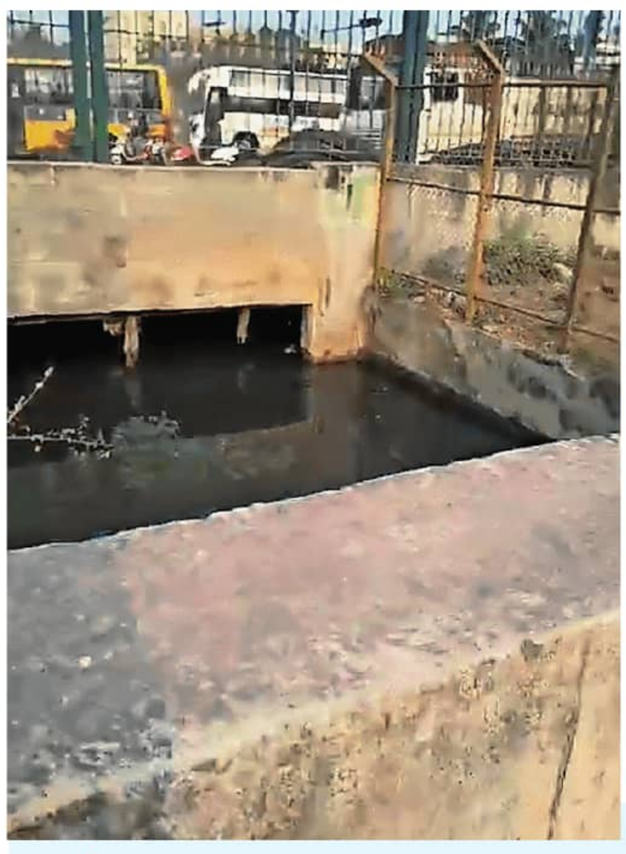

Residents of Gottigere and surrounding areas who visit Gottigere Lake for a walk in the morning and evening have expressed concern over the apathy of the authorities concerned and pollution of water in the lake. They expressed deep regret over the deteriorating condition of the lake that was rejuvenated three years ago at an estimated cost of Rs 2.50 crore.

They said the lake has been facing one crisis after the other. They complained that there was no flow or rainwater into the lake while most water bodies in Bengaluru were brimming with water during monsoon. Now, sewage is entering the lake through the storm water drain that is expected to carry only rain water into it.

"I have been visiting the lake for a walk in the morning. I saw sewage entering the lake through an inlet. Bad odour is emanating from sewage that entered the lake. The authorities concerned must fix this problem without any delay," said Ajay Kumar, a resident of the area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

**"All of us were very happy when the lake was rejuvenated three years ago. We expected the water body to become a destination for people from surrounding areas. However, there is nothing to celebrate about amenities and surroundings of the lake**

—Keshav Murthy, Gottigere resident

# Hot wheels... with a tweak

## That won't do — all unauthorised changes to vehicles that can compromise road safety are in police radar

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Despite being illegal, many vehicle owners in Bengaluru continue to modify their cars and bikes, with alterations ranging from modified silencers and raised suspensions to illegal tinted windows and high-intensity lights.

These modifications, though often seen as a way to enhance the vehicle's appearance or performance, are in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act unless they are approved by the Regional Transport Office (RTO). The Transport Department is monitoring these unauthorised changes, with increased focus on cracking down on such violations.

Popular modifications such as modified silencers, bull bars, raised suspension, high-intensity lights, LED flashers, oversized tyres, illegal tinted windows, pressure horns, and aerodynamic kits often violate legal standards. These alterations can affect the safety and compliance of vehicles on public roads.

A transport department official said,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

# No leak, no peek this season

## Board season battle begins, as officials hunt cyber cheats targeting anxious candidates across Karnataka

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Social media accounts spreading fake question papers or rumours about paper leaks during the SSLC and II PUC examinations will be identified and blocked, and strict legal action will be taken against those involved, said School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa.

An official said: "Blocking social media accounts that circulate fake question papers or rumours about paper leaks has become essential to protect the integrity of public examinations. False information spreads rapidly on platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Instagram, creating panic among students and parents at a crucial time. Many students lose focus and confidence after seeing such misleading posts, which directly affect their performance. By identifying and blocking such accounts, authorities can prevent misinformation from gaining traction and ensure that genuine updates reach students only through official channels." A school teacher said: "Banning such accounts is also necessary to deter organised attempts to exploit students for financial gain. In several instances, fraudsters circulate fake question papers and demand money, taking advantage of exam anxiety. Strict action, including blocking accounts and initiating legal proceedings, sends a strong message that examination-related malpractice will not be tolerated. This not only safeguards students but also strengthens public trust in the examination system and the government's commitment to conducting fair and transparent examinations."

Bangarappa said that any individual circulating false information through platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube for financial gain will face action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Education Act.

The II PUC exams will end on March 17, 2026, from 10 am to 1 pm, while SSLC exams run from March 18 to April 2, 10 am to 1.15 pm. A total of 7,10,363 students are registered for II PUC, including 6,46,801 freshers, 50,540 repeaters and 13,022 private candidates. SSLC has 9,02,889 students, with 8,12,855 freshers, 62,845 repeaters and 27,189 private candidates.He informed that blueprints, model question papers, exhaustive question banks, previous years' question papers along with key answers and centum papers have been made available in the Student Corner section of the Board website to help students prepare better.

For the first time, Private and repeater candidates can now register online and have been allotted to government PU colleges or schools. Webcasting will run under Deputy Commissioners' supervision, with police deployed at all centres. A 200-metre radius around exam centres will be prohibited, and nearby photocopying and cyber centres will remain closed, Bangarappa added.


## FORM-IV
**(See Rule-8)**

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**LOKESH K V**
**Publisher**

**Date: 01.03.2026**


# Starry start to Samskruthi fest

## Samskruthi–2026 launches, blending culture, talent, and thrilling student engagement

Samskruthi–2026, the prestigious intercollegiate management and cultural fest hosted by BMS College of Commerce and Management in association with BMS Evening College and BMS Academy, commenced with grandeur and electrifying enthusiasm on February 27, 2026. The two-day flagship celebration brings together a dynamic blend of managerial excellence and cultural brilliance, offering students a vibrant platform to showcase innovation, intellect and artistic expression.

The grand inaugural ceremony was held in the distinguished presence of acclaimed actor Shri Kichcha Sudeepa as the Chief Guest, who formally inaugurated the fest amidst resounding applause and an exuberant gathering of students. The ceremony was presided over by Dr BS Ragini Narayan, Donor Trustee and Member Secretary of BMS Educational Trust, and Sri Aviram Sharma, Chairman, BMS College of Commerce and Management.

Dr Pankaj Choudhary, Principal of BMS College of Commerce and Management, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, faculty members and students. In his address, he emphasised the importance of holistic development and applauded the collaborative efforts of the organising teams in conceptualising and executing Samskruthi–2026 on such a grand scale.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement as the grounds reverberated with cheers, reflecting the overwhelming enthusiasm of the student community. Following the inauguration, Kichcha Sudeepa engaged in an interactive session with students, creating a truly memorable highlight of the event. Students eagerly posed questions ranging from cinema and personal discipline to leadership, perseverance and success. Responding with remarkable clarity, humility and infectious energy, he shared insightful experiences from his professional journey, inspiring young minds to pursue excellence with dedication and passion.

His vibrant interaction, coupled with his charismatic presence, elevated the spirit of the occasion, transforming the inaugural ceremony into a powerful moment of motivation and celebration. The crowd remained in a jubilant and spirited mood throughout, responding with thunderous applause and wholehearted admiration. The inaugural day of Samskruthi–2026 reflected the spirit of BMS College, celebrating talent, leadership, creativity and cultural richness. The ceremony concluded on a resounding high note, setting an inspiring and energetic tone for the two-day fest and marking the beginning of a remarkable celebration of youth excellence. — BMB

# THINGS TO DO

## 01 Colour carnival

Rang Vansh 2026 brings a premium Holi celebration to Phoenix Mall of Asia at the Eden Event Area. The open-air festival features live DJs, organic colours and a special appearance by Harshvardhan Rane. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: March 4, 11 am onward**

## 02 Poetic evenings

Poetry lovers can head to Urban Solace – Café for the Soul for another edition of Tuesdays with the Bard, recognised in the Limca Book of Records (2016) as India's longest running poetry event.This week features poet Amrita Chopde, known for her introspective, visually evocative verse and fearless commentary. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: March 3, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

## 03 Creative carnival

The immersive festival features messy art and wet-on-wet painting, a community choir with Bangalore Flash Jam, theatre by Goshtarang, Gond art with Studio Tvastra, pottery by Passionfruit Pottery, and storytelling and music workshops by Sparklesound, alongside origami, flower pounding art and curated film screenings. Entry is ₹600. **Where: Eklavya School, Yelahanka; When: March 8, 9.30 am to 1 pm**

## 04 Sacred sounds

Jagriti Theatre hosts Morning Raag with Krithika Sreenivasan at Lumbini. Titled Voices of the Sacred: The Bhakti Continuum, the baithak-style concert explores women-led Bhakti poetry across Carnatic, Hindustani and folk traditions, with flute by Samarth Hegde and tabla by Karthik Bhat. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: March 8, 7.30 am**

## 05 Renaissance reimagined

The 12th Attakkalari India Biennial presents Leonardo da Vinci – Spirituals Anatomy, a contemporary dance work by Italian choreographer Raphael Bianco, commemorating 500 years since Leonardo's death. Blending movement, minimalistic music and Renaissance influences, the production explores the human body as ritual and revelation. **Where: Sabha BLR, Kamaraj Road; When: March 1, 7 pm**

# Karaga set for grand midnight

The historic Bengaluru Karaga Shaktyotsava will be held with grandeur at midnight on April 1, said Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy. The 11-day festival will begin on March 24, with a flag-hoisting ceremony and will feature a series of religious rituals. This year's celebrations will mirror Mysuru Dasara, with decorative lighting at Hudson Circle and Mysore Bank Circle.

Priest A Gnanendra Swamy will carry the Karaga for the 16th time. Cultural programmes will be held, with the Muzrai Department managing temple affairs and the Bengaluru Karaga Association handling external arrangements and illumination. — BMB

# Three arrested in school abuse

Police have arrested the principal, his wife and a teacher of a residential school in Devanahalli in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of a minor student.

The accused, Dhananjay, the school owner and principal, his wife Shailaja, and teacher Tabassum, were booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The complaint alleged sexual harassment and attempts to suppress the matter.

According to police, the incident occurred on February 9. Dhananjay allegedly entered the girls' dormitory late at night in an intoxicated state and harassed a minor student. The school houses over 700 students.

Police said the victim later confided in her parents, who approached authorities. A case was registered following preliminary enquiry, and the three accused were taken into custody.

Investigators are examining whether more students were affected. However, police clarified that only one victim has formally recorded a statement so far. —BMB

# Two arrested in villa assault

The Amruthahalli Police have arrested two youths and detained another suspect in connection with the alleged rape of a 19-year-old college student at a rented villa in Jakkur.

The accused have been identified as Dixon Sandra from West Bengal and HD Nikhil from Malleswaram. A third suspect, Anirudh, a contractor from Dharwad, is being questioned. Police said he was present at a party held on February 14.

According to investigators, the accused invited the victim and other young women to a late-night gathering. The complainant alleged she was given pills, after which she experienced sweating and blurred vision. Police suspect possible drugging and said toxicology tests will be conducted.

The villa has been sealed and equipment allegedly used for a photoshoot seized. A video from the party has surfaced as part of the probe. While allegations suggest more women may have been targeted, only one formal complaint has been filed so far.—BMB

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# Forest officers nab illegal bird traffickers

## Smugglers caught red-handed as forest taskforce crushes shadowy avian trafficking trail from Phuket

Seven rare birds seized at Kempegowda International Airport, accused arrested under Wildlife Protection Act

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A team of officers from the Karnataka Forest Department, recently stationed at Kempegowda International Airport to detect and intercept wildlife trafficking, has registered its first wildlife offence case involving seven wild birds.

The case was registered on February 26, based on profiling and information gathered by officers of the Air Intelligence Unit of Airport Customs at KIA.

The passengers, Mohammed Usman, aged 27, and Arfath Sharieff, aged 25, were illegally importing seven wild birds from Phuket in Thailand to Bengaluru. The birds included one rhinoceros hornbill, two black sicklebill, two greater lophorinas, and two red birds-of-paradise. The duo was found to be in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The department seized the birds and arrested the accused. A wildlife offence case has been registered at the Range Forest Office, Devanahalli, for legal action against them.

The operation was conducted by Customs and Bureau of Immigration officers at the international airport, along with officials from the Forest Department, Devanahalli.

"So far, wildlife trafficking cases at KIA have been booked under the Customs Act. For the first time, a case has been booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, which will lead to criminal prosecution. We have already filed an FIR and are planning to file a charge sheet within seven to ten days to ensure that the trial begins," said Dr Santosh Kumar G, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Rural Division.

Accordintg to the KFD, the plan is to take such cases to their logical conclusion so that they act as a deterrent.

**Forest Department arrests two flyers importing seven wild birds. The birds included hornbill, sicklebill, and birds-of-paradise**

Notably, the Bengaluru Rural Division of the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) stationed four officials at Kempegowda International Airport from January 26, to prevent wildlife crimes and bring offenders to justice.

The KFD team, comprising four Deputy Range Forest Officers, is currently working in coordination with the Customs and Immigration departments and remains on standby as required.

"The step has been taken to reduce the number of illegal imports of exotic animal species into the city. It will also improve interdepartmental coordination. Presently, we are targeting international freight from Southeast Asia," added Dr Kumar.

The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022, brought significant changes in how the import of exotic species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is regulated. It mandates that owners of such species register them through the Parivesh 2.0 portal and obtain due clearance for their import.

# Police open fire, seven held

In a breakthrough in the murder of rowdy sheeter Pawan Kumar, Sampigehalli Police on Saturday arrested seven individuals and opened fire in self-defence while apprehending a key accused identified as Ranjith.

The incident occurred near Mittaganahalli within the jurisdiction of Bagalur Police Station. Acting on credible information, a special police team tracked Ranjith to a rented house in the area. When officers attempted to apprehend him, he allegedly turned violent and tried to flee. Police said he attacked two personnel with a dagger despite repeated warnings to surrender.

"In self-defence, we fired at his leg to neutralise the threat," an officer explained. Ranjith was overpowered and shifted to a nearby hospital. His condition is reported to be stable. Police stated that Ranjith had been absconding since the murder of Pawan Kumar and had previous cases registered at Rammurthy Nagar Police Station, Bagalur Police Station, and Banaswadi Police Station.

Six more accused have been arrested in Pawan Kumar's (25) murder on February 25 at Amarjyothi Layout, Thanisandra. Police suspect an old rivalry. Investigation continues.

—BMB

# Astrologer's words lead to suicide

A 28-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide after becoming distressed over an astrologer's prediction about her lifespan on Friday under the jurisdiction of Bagalagunte Police Station.

The incident was reported from NEL Layout within the jurisdiction of Bagalagunte Police Station. The deceased has been identified as Divya Jyothi (28), an employee of a private firm who was working from home.

According to police, Divya had consulted an astrologer regarding her relationship with a man from Kodagu and the prospects of their marriage. Both families had reportedly agreed to the alliance. During the consultation, the astrologer allegedly told her that she had a "short lifespan" and advised her to perform special prayers and rituals to ward off impending danger and ensure a happy married life.

Acting on the advice, she performed rituals at her residence for nine days. On the final day, special offerings were planned to be made to Goddess Maramma. Police sources said the prediction caused her severe anxiety, although her family had been trying to reassure her. On the night of the incident, after dinner, she went to her room. When she did not respond to calls, her family checked through a window and allegedly found her hanging at around 8 pm. Bagalagunte police sent the body for post-mortem and registered an unnatural death case. Investigation continues. —BMB

# Mother, children saved from tracks

In a swift operation, Bengaluru City Police rescued a woman and her two young children who had allegedly attempted suicide near a railway track in the early hours of February 28.

The incident occurred around 1.33 am in OAEUS Layout under the Sampigehalli Police Station limits. A local resident noticed the distressed woman sitting along the track with two small children and alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline.

ASI Rupesh and Police Head Constable Bande Nawaz, who were on patrol in Hoysala-174, reached the spot within minutes. The woman, aged between 25 and 30 and originally from Bihar, told police she was facing domestic violence from her husband, a construction worker.

Officers counselled her, traced her husband, warned him against further abuse and informed his contractor. The woman and her children were later escorted home safely. Police said timely intervention prevented a tragedy. —BMB

# 70 percent groundwater unsafe in Peenya Industrial Area: Study

## Researchers warn rapid industrialisation and untreated effluents degrading groundwater quality across Peenya Industrial Area raising serious environmental concerns

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Industrial pollution contaminates Peenya groundwater severely

Blame it on a failing sewage system, untreated industrial effluents, or geogenic factors, groundwater in the Peenya Industrial Area is increasingly becoming unfit for human consumption. A group of city-based researchers has highlighted that nearly 70 percent of groundwater in the area is non-potable, raising serious concerns over environmental safety and public health risks.

The study evaluated the potability of groundwater samples using two complementary indices to identify priority contaminants and assess the overall water quality status in the industrial region.

Researchers from Cambridge Institute of Technology and The Oxford College of Engineering collected 30 pre-monsoon groundwater samples in April 2024. They analysed them for 10 key parameters, including pH level, chloride content, total dissolved solids, nitrate concentration, total hardness, iron, calcium, magnesium, sulphate, and fluoride levels.

The conventional Water Quality Index calculated for the samples revealed that more than 70 percent of groundwater in the area is non-potable and unsuitable for human consumption without treatment.

**Groundwater Yearbook of Karnataka 2021–2022, released by the Central Ground Water Board, also highlighted high nitrate levels in groundwater in the area**

Experts say groundwater resources in the region are under pressure due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. They warn that water quality continues to deteriorate due to both geogenic and anthropogenic factors. Many industries in the area continue polluting not only surface water bodies but also underground aquifers, worsening the contamination levels.

"Many red category units in the area that deal with hazardous substances continue to pollute water sources. While pollution continues unabated, the Peenya Industrial Area Association has played a mute spectator, not bothered about environmental well-being or the health of residents in the area. To add to that, the state pollution control board's piecemeal effort has only allowed these industries to continue polluting," said Ramprasad V, founder, Friends of Lakes.

Increasing pollution levels in the area have been flagged by several agencies over time. A report by the Central Pollution Control Board identified Peenya Industrial Area as one of five contaminated sites in Bengaluru.

The Groundwater Yearbook of Karnataka 2021–2022, released by the Central Ground Water Board, also highlighted high nitrate levels in groundwater in the area.

"Many studies over the last few years have pointed to contamination of water resources in the area. KSPCB prepared plans earlier to address pollution levels. However, it has not yielded results. The Peenya Industrial Area Association must consider creating recharge structures to improve groundwater quality," said a city-based groundwater expert.

BangaloreMirror
Analysis shows general decline in groundwater levels at all monitored locations with Indiranagar's dip being most alarming and Varthur experiencing critical depletion. Yelahanka shows least deterioration
THE LAST DROP

BM reported on February 28 about depleted groundwater levels in parts of city

## Government prepares fresh guidance value hike from April

The Government of Karnataka is preparing to revise the guidance value of properties across Karnataka, with a proposed increase of 15 to 20 per cent likely to take effect from April 1. This comes barely two and a half years after a steep hike of up to 30 per cent in October 2023. The move is expected to generate an additional ₹2,500 crore annually, as the government seeks to strengthen revenue amid rising financial commitments. While market prices of land have steadily increased, officials are considering revising guidance values to align official rates more closely with prevailing market trends and actual transaction patterns.

For 2025–26, the government projected ₹28,000 crore in revenue from stamp duty and registration fees but is likely to collect only around ₹25,000 crore, resulting in a shortfall of nearly ₹3,000 crore. With a possible target of ₹30,000 crore set for 2026–27, officials are exploring a fresh revision to boost collections. Existing rules permit annual revision of guidance values, and several states follow this practice. Karnataka has 259 sub-registrar offices, including 43 in Bengaluru and surrounding areas, where nearly 60 per cent of the 22 to 24 lakh annual property registrations occur. Sources said preliminary discussions are underway, and a final decision is pending government approval soon. — BMB

## No takers for Bommanahalli property auction

The Bengaluru South City Corporation was forced to postpone a property auction in Bommanahalli after bidders failed to turn up. The auction, held on Friday to recover pending property tax from defaulters, listed 50 properties with total arrears of ₹1.08 crore. Ahead of the process, 14 defaulters cleared ₹27,62,525 in dues, prompting officials to withdraw their properties from the auction list and instruct Assistant Revenue Officers to issue necessary acknowledgements. The remaining 36 defaulters had not paid their taxes till Friday afternoon. However, when the auction process began, members of the public present at the venue were not ready to deposit the earnest money to participate in bidding. With no one stepping forward, officials were directed to make fresh preparations for a re-auction of the 36 properties, said Commissioner KN Ramesh. — BMB

## Teen dies on exam morning

What was meant to be an important academic milestone turned into a day of unimaginable sorrow for a family in Bambalawad village in Chikodi taluk. Seventeen-year-old Bhumika Kareppa Malinge, a second-year PUC student, passed away after reportedly suffering a sudden heart attack on the morning of her first examination. According to family members, Bhumika had woken up early and studied from 3 am to 6 am in preparation for her examination. After taking a brief rest of about thirty minutes, she went to have a bath when she suddenly collapsed. Her family rushed her to a nearby hospital in a desperate attempt to save her, but doctors were unable to revive her. The untimely death has plunged the family into deep grief, with scenes of emotional distress reported at their home. — BMB

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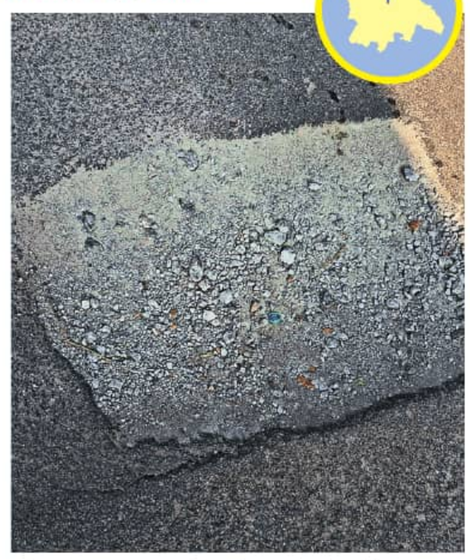
### Road neglect

**Dasarahalli**



Despite repeated complaints to the AEE and AE, the busy GBA Road in Bhuvaneswari Nagar, Dasarahalli, remains unrepaired, causing inconvenience to commuters.

### Sanitation failure

**Surabhi Layout**

Once a well-maintained Raithara Santhe, is now littered with garbage daily despite cleaning by BBMP, while absence of street lights worsens conditions and allows culprits to go unchecked.

### Public nuisance

**Shivanahalli**

Framed photos and statues abandoned near the temple on Jakkur Main Road in Shivanahalli are being dumped with garbage, while public urination at the spot has created a serious nuisance.

# UGC urges colleges to lead eye injury awareness drive

## Young population faces highest ocular trauma risk, awareness campaigns aim to reduce preventable blindness nationwide significantly

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed Higher Educational Institutions across India to step up awareness campaigns on ocular trauma, stressing that eye injuries remain a major yet preventable cause of blindness.

In an advisory issued to universities and colleges, the Commission underlined that eyes are central to overall health, with nearly 80 percent of perception linked to sight. Ocular trauma accounts for around 7 percent of all bodily injuries and 10 to 15 percent of eye diseases, while nearly 5 percent of irreversible blindness results from such injuries.

The advisory noted that young males in their most productive years remain among the worst affected, with 55 percent of victims below 25 years of age. It warned that this trend carries serious socio economic consequences for families and the nation.

Road accidents contribute to 34 percent of eye injuries, followed by sports at 29 percent and occupational hazards at 21 percent. Calling eye injury a preventable cause of blindness, the UGC directed institutions to install posters and hoardings on campuses and other prominent locations to spread awareness about causes and preventive measures.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

**Advisory noted that young males in their most productive years remain among the worst affected, with 55 percent of victims below 25 years of age**

Institutions must also use print, electronic, and social media platforms to amplify awareness campaigns effectively nationwide.

The Commission also recommended creating a national web based registry to record ocular trauma cases, including causes and treatment outcomes.

It proposed making eye injuries a notifiable event, requiring hospitals and medical practitioners to upload case details to a central portal. The advisory called for collaboration with organisations such as the Ocular Trauma Society of India and the All India Ophthalmological Society to generate and analyse data.

Additionally, the UGC encouraged institutions to integrate safety education, promote protective practices, and conduct annual awareness campaigns to reduce preventable blindness nationwide effectively. **BMB**

# Disconnect from screens, reconnect with real world

The Karnataka government is considering a ban on social media use for children below 16 years, with School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa stating that a final decision will be taken after consulting students, parents, and experts. The minister clarified that the move aims purely at safeguarding children's interests and ensuring their healthy development in a rapidly digitising environment.

He expressed concern over growing mobile phone addiction among youngsters and highlighted the role of parents in shaping usage habits. "In many homes, when a child cries or needs to be pacified, it is the parents who hand over the mobile phone. The root of the problem begins there. Children are going astray due to excessive use of mobiles and social media. This is not just a problem of our state, but of the entire country," he said.

Bangarappa said the government is working on a campaign titled 'Mobile Bidi, Pustaka Hidiyiri' under the guidance of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "The Chief Minister has cautioned about this issue two to three times already. This should not remain limited to classrooms. It has to be implemented as a responsible policy decision. A detailed discussion is required before moving ahead," he added.

Explaining the consultation process, the minister said the government will prioritise children's welfare while gathering views. Students, teachers, and parents will be consulted before finalising the policy, and parents must show greater responsibility in monitoring digital device usage at home. He said the proposal remains under discussion and the government will take an appropriate decision soon under the Chief Minister's guidance.

Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar also advised students to reduce mobile phone usage and devote more time to reading, sports, and innovation. **BMB**

# University launches diploma for Anganwadi staff

Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University is set to introduce a first-of-its-kind Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Pre-School Education aimed at training Anganwadi staff and pre-primary educators across the state.

The one-year diploma will provide structured professional training to personnel working under the Integrated Child Development Scheme and other pre-primary institutions. The programme is recognised by the Government of Karnataka.

The university will also introduce a six-month certificate course alongside the diploma. In a separate development, the university signed an MoU with Oracle Academy to introduce skill and employability programmes. Undergraduate and postgraduate students will receive 90 hours of training in digital and data skills, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, soft skills, and professional communication.

The initiative will also support faculty development and curriculum updates aligned with industry needs requirements. **BMB**

# Innovation labs to transform rural school learning

In a push to take science beyond textbooks and into classrooms, the Karnataka government will set up 'Innovation Labs' in over 60 schools across the Karnataka. Minor Irrigation, Science and Minister NS Boseraju said, "Both 'Nehru Stream Labs' and 'Innovation Labs' are being rolled out to encourage scientific thinking among students, especially in rural areas. In collaboration with the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, Nehru Stream Labs are being established in Karnataka Public Schools across the Kalyana Karnataka region."

"Science must play a key role in improving everyday life. With the vision of Science for All and Easy Science, we want to build scientific temper in children from their school days," Boseraju said. The initiative promotes education and innovation among students. **BMB**

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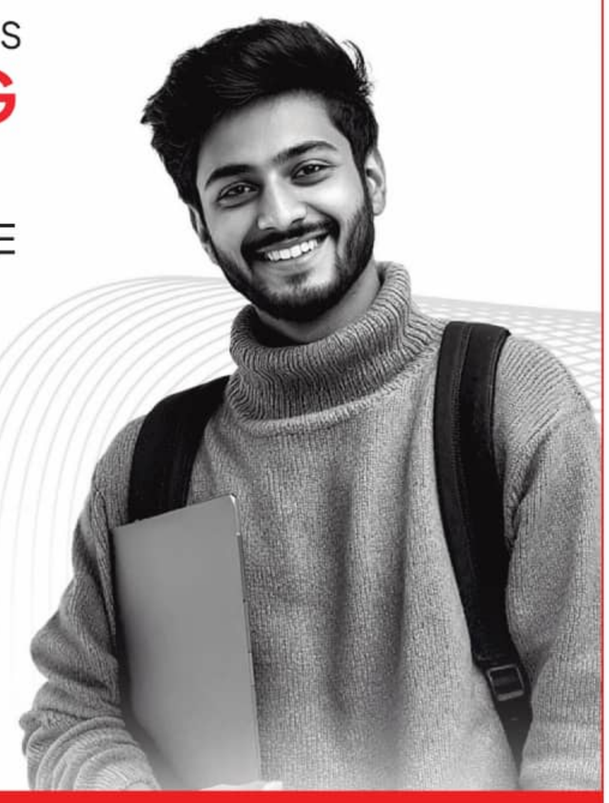

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# Karnataka leads nation in forest fire incidents this February

## Nearly 2,000 fire alerts in 23 days highlight rising forest vulnerability despite mitigation measures and satellite-based monitoring systems

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Flames engulf parched undergrowth during peak fire season, despite controlled burning, fire line maintenance, and protection camps across vulnerable zones

In February so far, Karnataka has recorded the highest number of forest fire incidents in the country, according to a report by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

Between February 1 and 23, the state recorded nearly 2,000 forest fire incidents based on spatial information from the FSI. Karnataka logged 1,927 incidents during the period, marginally higher than Andhra Pradesh, which reported 1,902 incidents. Arunachal Pradesh recorded 1,797 incidents, while Assam reported 1,362. Of the total incidents in Karnataka, 117 were categorised as large forest fires.

Karnataka also leads the country in the total number of forest fire incidents recorded in 2025-26 so far. The state has reported 3,777 incidents, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 3,255, Maharashtra with 2,640, Uttarakhand with 2,564 and Andhra Pradesh with 2,469 incidents.

Officials from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) said a series of measures are in place to enhance preparedness, reduce fire occurrences and control the spread of fires, subject to the availability of funds each year. These include controlled burning in vulnerable forest areas, creation and maintenance of fire lines, and deployment of fire watchers during the fire season from January to May.

The department has also established forest fire protection camps and undertaken the creation and improvement of water harvesting structures to support firefighting efforts. Field-level workshops are conducted in collaboration with other line departments, local institutions and non-governmental organisations to strengthen response mechanisms.

Engagement with local communities forms a key component of the strategy. Village forest committees and eco-development committees are involved in awareness campaigns to sensitise residents about forest fire risks. Mock drills are conducted periodically, and frontline staff are provided with training in fire prevention and suppression techniques.

Experts, however, point out that the high number of incidents may be attributed to multiple factors, including changing climatic conditions and the use of high-resolution satellite technology that enables more accurate detection of fire alerts.

**With 1,927 forest fires recorded in February alone, Karnataka tops national charts, raising concerns over man-made causes, funding shortages, and the effectiveness of preparedness strategies**

The Karnataka Forest Department, in association with the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Application Centre (KSRSAC), Bengaluru, operates a Forest Fire Alert system that relies on satellite-based fire signals for real-time monitoring.

Despite these efforts, experts say there remains scope to strengthen mitigation measures. They note that a majority of forest fires in Karnataka are believed to be man-made, reflecting strained relations with local communities. In addition, limited financial resources for fire prevention and management have hampered sustained mitigation efforts, potentially contributing to the rising number of incidents.

## Scorching summer ahead, IMD warns

An above-normal number of heatwave days are expected across most parts of the country between March and May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast on Saturday. The affected regions include West Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, south and east Maharashtra, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of north Karnataka and north Tamil Nadu. However, in March, maximum temperatures are likely to be normal to below normal over many parts of India, except the northeast, east, and some parts of the Western Himalayan region, central and peninsular India. The IMD said this could be due to normal rainfall expected across the country in March. It also noted that February rainfall was the lowest since 2001, with no cold wave recorded nationwide. –PTI

## Dalits finally get village barber access

The Karnataka government has facilitated the opening of a barber shop in Shingatalur village of Gadag district after Dalits were allegedly denied haircut and tonsure services by members of the upper-caste community. Sources in the Social Welfare Department said Dalit residents had faced the denial for several years during a specific period annually, compelling them to travel to neighbouring villages for basic grooming services.

Following repeated representations from members of the Dalit community, officials intervened to resolve the issue. The salon has been established through a joint effort of the Social Welfare Department, the Taluk administration, the Taluk panchayat, local Dalit organisations and the Shivasharana Hadapada Appanna community. Basavaraj Hadapada, a barber from nearby Tippapur village, has been allotted the shop to provide services in Shingatalur. Officials stated that the initiative was undertaken under the untouchability eradication awareness and harmonious living programme to promote social harmony and ensure equal access to essential services. –PTI

# J&K team create history: 'Biggest thing in my life'

RANJI TROPHY

Jammu and Kashmir claimed their maiden Ranji Trophy on Saturday after a draw with eight-times champions Karnataka in the final of India's premier domestic first-class competition, securing the win on the basis of their first-innings lead. It was the first title in 67 years for Jammu and Kashmir.

The historic triumph marked a watershed moment for the team, which sealed the championship after taking a decisive 291-run first-innings lead in the drawn final against Karnataka.

"I cannot explain and I don't have any words. It is the biggest thing in my life," Jammu and Kashmir captain Paras Dogra said after the match. "I have been lucky to be with JKCA. The guys have been phenomenal and excellent. From the beginning, they were 100% sure we would win this Ranji Trophy."

Opening batter Shubham Pundir, who was named man of the match, anchored the innings with a commanding 121, while Dogra contributed 70 to power Jammu and Kashmir to a mammoth first-innings total of 584. Right-arm pacer Aaquib Nabi Dar, adjudged player of the series, delivered a match-defining spell of 5 for 54 as Karnataka were bowled out for 293 despite a valiant 160 from opener Mayank Agarwal.

Opting not to enforce the follow-on, Jammu and Kashmir tightened their grip on the contest. Qamran Iqbal (160 not out) and Sahil Dogra (101 not out) struck unbeaten centuries on the final day before the team declared at 342 for 4, after which the captains agreed to a draw.

Indian Cricket Board President Mithun Manhas, a former Jammu and Kashmir player, watched the final day alongside Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and dedicated the victory to the people of the state.

"I think the best part that has happened in the last four years is that they started believing in themselves, and the rest is history," Manhas said. –Reuters

Jammu and Kashmir's players celebrate their victory in the Ranji Trophy 2025–26 final cricket match against Karnataka, at KSCA Stadium, in Hubballi, on Saturday

SUNDAY READ

File photo of a traditional water canon salute being accorded to the maiden Abu Dhabi–Mangaluru flight on arrival at Mangaluru International Airport

# No wind beneath their wings

## UDAN rollback grounds Karnataka's airport dreams

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Karnataka's aviation map looks impressive on paper. Airports dot several districts, new terminals are rising and runways stretch across acres of freshly acquired land. Yet in reality, many of these airports are witnessing little to no air traffic. With the scaling down of the Centre's UDAN regional connectivity scheme, several towns that once had fledgling air links are now back to watching empty skies. In some districts, services have been suspended. In others, airports are ready but commercial flights are yet to begin. The result is a growing disconnect between infrastructure and actual connectivity.

### Raichur airport

Raichur airport, coming up over 322 acres at a sanctioned cost of Rs 219 crore, is one such project under progress. Around Rs 30 crore has already been released and nearly 30 per cent of the construction is complete. Rehabilitation measures for displaced families are under way, with layouts being developed for affected households. Hassan airport, being built across 534 acres, has achieved roughly 50 per cent completion. In Ballari's Jaganur, plans for an airport over 943 acres are on paper with a DPR prepared, but groundwork has not yet commenced.

### Connectivity crunch

Kalaburagi offers a stark contrast between potential and reality. It has one of the longest runways in the state after Bengaluru, yet flight services have remained completely suspended for the past six months. Despite heavy public investment running into hundreds of crores, the airport is largely idle. There are strong demands to revive flights to Bengaluru, Mumbai, Tirupati and New Delhi, particularly under a revived or expanded regional connectivity framework.

### Belagavi airport

Belagavi airport has also seen a sharp drop in services following the rollback of UDAN routes. Earlier, multiple flights operated under the scheme, but now only a handful remain. There is a growing call to declare Belagavi an international airport to boost trade and cross border movement. Bidar is operating just one flight once a day, leaving passengers seeking better connectivity to cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi.

### Mangaluru airport

In coastal Karnataka, Mangaluru airport faces its own challenges. There is persistent demand for runway expansion to improve operational capacity and open up more international routes, including to destinations like Singapore. Shivamogga currently connects to Hyderabad, Goa, Chennai and Bengaluru, but the absence of night landing facilities limits expansion to larger metros like Mumbai and Delhi.

### Awaiting takeoff

Vijayapura presents another curious case. A new airport built across 727 acres at a cost of Rs 618 crore is complete and awaiting formal inauguration. Once cleared, flight operations are expected to begin, but until then, the infrastructure remains unused. Hubballi airport, expanded at a cost of Rs 385 crore, boasts an international standard runway and improved facilities. It connects to select cities, but there are demands to restore suspended routes, increase frequency and grant it international airport status to unlock its full potential.

An aviation expert said, "Karnataka has built the runways and terminals. What it now needs is a renewed push to bring aircraft back into its skies and ensure that these airports do not remain monuments to missed opportunities."

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

**GOLDEN VISITOR SPOTTED** Our reader shares a striking image of an Indian Golden Oriole spotted at Sarakki Lake, a rare sight in this area. Perched amid lush greenery, the bird's vivid yellow plumage stands out brilliantly against its natural surroundings. Beyond its beauty, the Oriole plays a vital ecological role by feeding on berries and aiding in the dispersal of seeds of fruit-bearing plants. The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

## DID YOU KNOW?

A small ivory object known as the Adorant figurine, discovered in 1979 in Geissenklösterle Cave in southwestern Germany, offers new insight into the cognitive abilities of early modern humans. Crafted about 40,000 years ago by people of the Aurignacian culture, the figurine and more than 200 other artifacts bear sequences of notches, dots, lines, crosses and other signs. New research published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggests these marks do not constitute a written language. However, computational analysis shows they were applied selectively and conventionally, displaying measurable information density — a trait associated with structured communication systems. For instance, crosses appear only on tools and animal figurines, not on human figures, indicating patterned usage transmitted across generations within these prehistoric communities.
Although statistically distinct from modern writing systems, the sign sequences show information density comparable to proto-cuneiform from ancient Uruk in Mesopotamia.
Researchers conclude that while the Aurignacian signs lack a clear link to spoken language, they reflect advanced symbolic thinking among early Homo sapiens as they spread across Europe.
**— Reuters**

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

# ₹576 crore spent, but Varthur, Bellandur lake rejuvenation stalls

### Residents and activists demand transparency as desilting delays, sewage inflow and incomplete works plague Bengaluru's key flood-control lakes

**Extensive weed growth spreads across the lake surface as desilting delays and untreated sewage inflows continue to hamper restoration efforts**

Despite crores being spent, rejuvenation works at Bellandur and Varthur lakes continue to crawl, triggering frustration among residents, lake activists and experts who are demanding a comprehensive public report on expenditure and progress. The two lakes, among the largest water bodies in Bengaluru, play a critical role in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge and maintaining the ecological balance of the city's eastern corridor.

Nearly ₹576 crore earmarked for the restoration project has reportedly been spent, with additional funds now being sought. However, six years after repeated directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), key agencies including BBMP, BWSSB and the Minor Irrigation Department are yet to complete the works in full. Once notorious for toxic froth and even catching fire due to severe pollution, the lakes had drawn global attention, prompting court-monitored action plans and time-bound compliance mandates.

Former members of the NGT-appointed monitoring committee and local conservation groups have raised concerns over what they describe as poor transparency and limited accountability. They are pressing for a detailed white paper outlining expenditure, timelines, scope revisions and compliance with tribunal norms. Activists point out that while large sums have been spent, visible outcomes remain unsatisfactory. In Bellandur, desilting is estimated to be around 60 per cent complete, with key stretches still pending. Sewage inflow continues, and weed infestation remains a persistent issue in Varthur. Concerns have also been raised about whether pending works can realistically be completed before the monsoon.

Recently, officials from the Bengaluru East Zone inspected both lakes and directed that priority desilting be expedited ahead of the rains. They also called for strengthening of bunds, maintenance of inlets, fencing and protection of buffer zones. Coordination with the Bangalore Development Authority has been sought before Varthur Lake is formally handed over to the civic body.

Experts argue that structural design flaws continue to undermine restoration efforts. Inadequate inlet designs allow garbage, silt and untreated sewage to enter directly into the lakes. The absence of effective silt traps and settling chambers further compounds the problem. In Varthur, while about 90 per cent of desilting is reportedly complete, the remaining portion is obstructed by a pipeline running across the lake bed, affecting natural water flow.

Activists also highlight gaps in sewage treatment capacity and incomplete underground drainage networks in Gunjur, Balagere and Varthur, resulting in untreated wastewater entering stormwater drains. While BWSSB cites upgraded and proposed STPs, residents insist that without consistent treated water release and transparent water quality data, rejuvenation will remain largely on paper. **— BMB**

## BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

# Sunscreen blocks 95% vitamin D? Doctor shares 11 eye-opening facts you should know about vitamin D

**The Claim:** Vitamin D is just a basic vitamin for bones, and brief sun exposure alone is enough to maintain healthy levels, without considering magnesium status, skin tone, sunscreen use, diet, or supplementation practices.
**Fact:** Vitamin D functions as a hormone requiring sunlight activation, magnesium as cofactor, adequate fat for absorption, and sufficient exposure, while influencing calcium metabolism, immunity, mood regulation, insulin sensitivity, and blood pressure control.

Vitamin D is often called the "sunshine vitamin," but as Dr Priyam Bordoloi highlights on X, it's far more than a simple nutrient. For billions of people, understanding how it works in the body could change the way we approach everything from bone health to mood, immunity, and heart function. From how sunlight, skin tone, and magnesium influence absorption to its role in regulating serotonin, insulin, and blood pressure, these facts reveal why vitamin D is critical—and surprisingly complex.

### Vitamin D is a hormone?

Dr Priyam Bordoloi explains that vitamin D is technically a hormone, not just a vitamin. It requires ultraviolet light from sunlight to activate, meaning exposure matters. Yet modern habits can block its benefits: sunscreen with SPF 30 can reduce the skin's vitamin D production by roughly 95%, and darker skin tones need three to five times longer sun exposure to achieve the same levels as lighter skin. Without adequate vitamin D, the body can absorb only about 10–15% of dietary calcium, highlighting its essential role in bone and overall mineral health.

### Magnesium is another crucial factor

The body cannot properly activate or transport vitamin D without it, making it a mandatory cofactor for optimal function. Deficiency in vitamin D has broader effects than bone health alone; it has been linked to seasonal mood changes, sometimes referred to as "Winter Blues," because of its influence on serotonin and dopamine regulation in the brain. It also enhances insulin sensitivity, supporting pancreatic beta-cell function, and acts as a natural "brake" on the Renin-Angiotensin system to help regulate blood pressure.

Vitamin D's impact extends to cardiovascular health as well, preventing "ectopic calcification," a condition where calcium deposits in arteries rather than bones. It also boosts the immune system by enhancing T-cell activity, helping the body fight infections more effectively. For those taking supplements, absorption can be significantly improved—by up to 32%—when taken with a meal containing fat. Dr Priyam Bordoloi's insights underscore how vitamin D is central to multiple systems in the body. Sun exposure, dietary cofactors like magnesium, and careful supplementation are all key to harnessing its full benefits. For a nutrient that touches everything from mood and immunity to calcium metabolism and heart health, understanding vitamin D is essential for long-term wellness. As per Healthline, vitamin D can be found in both animal and fortified plant sources, making it possible to meet your daily needs through diet. Fatty fish like salmon and mackerel are among the richest sources. Eggs provide modest amounts, which can be increased through UV-exposed or high-vitamin D hens. Mushrooms exposed to sunlight produce vitamin D2. Fortified foods like cow's milk, soy milk, and orange juice also contain vitamin D, and support bone and immune health. **— ET Online**

## Better net run rate means New Zealand sneaks through though Pak piled up big total on crucial day

# Pakistan knocked out despite win

Pakistan were on Saturday knocked out of the T20 World Cup despite winning against Sri Lanka by five runs in their Super Eights match here, with New Zealand sneaking into the semifinals on the basis of better net run rate.

Invited to bat, Pakistan made a formidable 212 for 8 with Sahibzada Farhan (100) hitting a stunning century and his opening partner Fakhar Zaman scoring 84.

Pakistan needed to restrict Sri Lanka to 147 or less to surpass New Zealand's net run rate and reach the semifinals from Group 2 of the Super Eights.

But they failed to do so as co-hosts Sri Lanka, who were already out of reckoning for a semifinal spot, ended at 207 for 6.

**Pakistan**
**212/8**
**(20)**

**Sri Lanka**
**207/6**
**(20)**

Pakistan and New Zealand ended on three points each in the Super Eights stage but the Kiwis qualified for the semifinals as the second-placed team from the group on the basis of better NRR.

England have already qualified for the semifinals after winning all their three Super Eights matches.

Captain Dasun Shanaka top-scored with 76 not out off just 31 balls while Pavan Rathnayake contributed 58.

For Pakistan, Abrar Ahmed was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 23 runs.

**1. Abrar Ahmed of Pakistan celebrates the wicket of Charith Asalanka of Sri Lanka; 2. Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman celebrates after scoring a half-century; 3. Pakistan's Sahibzada Farh celebrates after scoring a half-century an celebrates after scoring a half-century; 4. Sri Lanka's Pavan Rathnayake plays a shot**

### Sahibzada, Zaman shine

Opener Sahibzada Farhan produced another sensational display, slamming his second century of the ongoing tournament, while Fakhar Zaman struck a magnificent 84.

Asked to bat first after losing the toss in a must-win match, the Pakistan cricket team came out with a new opening pair of Farhan and Zaman. The decision worked in favour of the team as both players looked in great touch from the start. Farhan and Fakhar began with a cautious approach but changed gears from the third over.

Pakistan reached the 50-run mark in just 4.4 overs and were 64 without loss at the end of the powerplay. This is Pakistan's highest powerplay score in the ongoing tournament.

Farhan completed his half-century in just 32 balls and also achieved a major milestone during his innings. The 29-year-old broke Virat Kohli's record for the most runs in a single edition of a T20 World Cup, having required 37 runs to go past Kohli's tally of 319. He achieved the milestone by driving a boundary off Dasun Shanaka at the start of the sixth over.

**-Agencies**

**Today's match**

**Zimbabwe V/S South Africa**
**03.00 pm**

**India V/S West Indies**
**07.00 pm**

# Will India or Windies deliver knockout punch?

**SS Shreekumar**
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After a staggering defeat to South Africa, the Indian team regrouped and swept past Zimbabwe with ridiculous ease in their Super 8 Group 1 league clash of the T20 World Cup cricket tournament.

That has set the tone for a mouth-watering battle for survival between a confident India and the rampaging West Indies.

South Africa have already made the semi-finals with two wins and are comfortably perched. It is only the second qualifier from the group which remains to be decided. Zimbabwe lost both their games, to India and the West Indies, and will play for pride against South Africa in Delhi earlier on the same day.

A victory for either India or the West Indies by any margin at the Eden Garden in Kolkata on Sunday means it qualifies. Both teams have won and lost a match each.

But if a No-Result or a wash out materialises out of the blue, or grey if you like, the West Indies will advance due to a better Net Run Rate of +1.791 to India's -0.100.

On a wicket best suited for spinners, the City has been having a moderate temperature of 22 degrees celsius with no prediction for rain right now.

**Axar Patel, left, Ishan Kishan and Varun Chakravarthy attend the practice session ahead of their match against West Indies, in Kolkata, on Saturday**

Naturally, for India, Varun Chakravarthy with 11 wickets, Axar Patel, with 10 wickets, and Kuldeep Yadav will be the cynosure.

Gudakesh Motie of the West Indies with 10 wickets in this tournament could turn out to be their trump card.

Pitted against this nagging variety of bowling will be India's Ishan Kishan who has scored 214 runs in this tournament so far and is in sublime form. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav has also scored 213 runs and has been in cracking form as well. Southpaw Abhishek Sharma's return to form is a good omen for India.

For the West Indies, it is Shimron Hetmyer, the left-hander who has been on the rampage with an incredible 221 runs to his name thus far. The likes of Rovman Powell, Jason Holder and Romario Shepherd have also shown their power and prowess often. A West Indies in explosive mode is always a sight to behold. Of course, their unpredictable nature also can cause a lot of worry to the think tank and the fans.

Surely, a packed Eden Gardens will be draped in blue and would hope for a home side victory. But a surprise can never be ruled out given the kind of aggression the West Indies have shown.

A super Sunday awaits cricket buffs!

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Bangalore North

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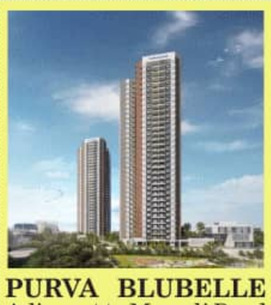

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# Stench keeping walkers away

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Expressing a similar opinion, Keshav Murthy, another Gottigere resident, said the authorities have forgotten about the existence of the lake. "All of us were very happy when the lake was rejuvenated three years ago. We expected the water body to become a destination for people from surrounding areas. However, there is nothing to celebrate about amenities and surroundings of the lake. Authorities must act to stop sewage entering the lake," Murthy said.

Stating that the authorities should not delay the maintenance of the lake, Poongothai, a resident of Gottigere, said the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers must take measures to stop sewage. "The BWSSB authorities have taken up the construction of Intermediate Sewage Pumping Station (ISPS). Sewage has been diverted into the lake due to the ongoing construction of the ISPS. The BWSSB engineer has been assuring to complete the work soon but there is no improvement or progress in the construction of the ISPS," said Poongothai.

When contacted, BNCC assistant engineer (Gottigere ward) said the lakes department has not handed Gottigere Lake to the engineering department. "I will inform my superiors about sewage entering the lake," the assistant engineer said.

BWSSB engineer Rangappa told BM construction of the ISPS is in progress. "We will make arrangements to pump sewage to the nearest STP after completion of the ISPS. As of now, sewage is being let into the storm water drain and is entering the lake. Once the construction of the ISPS is completed, no sewage will enter the lake," he said.

# Penalties range from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Penalties for unauthorised vehicle modifications can range from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000, depending on the nature of the modification. In cases of repeat offences, more severe consequences may follow, including the suspension of the vehicle's registration or even impoundment.

Vehicle owners are also required to restore their vehicles to factory specifications in order to regain road clearance. These penalties are designed to discourage non-compliance and ensure that vehicles meet the legal and safety standards set by authorities."

According to Indian motor vehicle regulations, any modification made to the manufacturer-certified design of a vehicle is illegal unless it is approved by the RTO.

This includes alterations to the vehicle's structure, mechanical systems, dimensions, engine capacity, or lighting. Additionally, the installation of unauthorised parts can void the vehicle's insurance and render it unfit for public roads, further compromising safety.

Although the state's traffic enforcement system is vast and well-established, challenges persist in ensuring compliance, particularly in tackling repeat offenders.

# 3 die of suffocation inside water tank

Three persons died after allegedly suffocating inside an overhead water tank at a house in Immadihalli Temple Circle, in Whitefield, on Saturday.

Munishamappa (67), the house owner, had entered the tank to clean it with some chemicals, when he developed breathing difficulties and collapsed inside. Later Rudhra Kumar, a plumber and Vishwanath Achari (24), a delivery boy too entered the tank for a rescue attempt and they too fainted.

The incident came to light when Aravinda, a 112 emergency caller, alerted the police. **BMB**

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Mother Teacher
Interview on 07/03/2026
Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
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### MEDICAL

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Santhosh Kumar S.P, residing at No. 5, 2nd Cross, near Pattalamma Temple, Nayandalli Metro Layout, Bengaluru-560039, have changed my minor Son's name from ANSHU KUMAR to AYANSH KUMAR, vide affidavit dated 28.02.2026, sworn before notary Ravi, Bangalore.

**I,** VIJAYALAKSHMI, W/o GANESAN C, residing at No. 1681, 2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, Prakashnagar, Bangalore North, Srirampuram, Bengaluru -560021. I have changed my name to VIJAYALAKSHMI D, vide affidavit dt: 27-02-2026 before notary Renuka .C, B.lore

**I,** DEEPA B, Residing at No. B3, Hari Rathna Residency, BCCHS Layout, Vajarahalli, Bangalore – 560109, have changed my name to DEEPA B KARTHIK, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

**I,** SURESHA B A residing at 11/4, Begur mn rd, Shanthinagar, Hongasandra, Madivala, Bengaluru – 560068 have changed my name to SURESH B A vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

**I,** MELAGIRI C K, Residing at No. 1/1, 20th Cross Road, Near Dodamma Temple, Avalahalli, Bengaluru – 560026, have changed my name to GIRISH K GOWDA, vide affidavit dated 09/02/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

**I,** PUSHPA HARI residing at 62/5, Hirandahalli, Virgaonagar, Bengaluru - 560049 have changed my name to PUSHPA HARI T vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

**I,** HARI LOKESH residing at 62/5, Hirandahalli, Virgaonagar, Bengaluru - 560049 have changed my name to HARI E L T vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

**I,** RAJINI M, Residing at No.68, Jogisara Village, Nonabur Post, Thirthahalli Taluk Shivamogga – 577414, have changed my name to RAJANI M vide affidavit dated 18/11/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

**I** SYED VAHAB S/O JAFAR SAB R/O 6, 6th Main 5th Cross Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039 Have Changed My Name FromSYED MAHAB SAB To SYED VAHAB For All Fururе Purpose

**I** A AAMEENA W/O A ABDULLA R/O 666,4th Cross Gangondanahalli bangalore-560039 Have Changed My Name From A AAMINA To A AAMEENA For All Future purpose

**I,** Fazelahussain Firozbhai S/o Firoz Salehbhai Nulwala R/o #301,3rd Floor, No-36, Abbas Manzil, Vinayaka Nagar, JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Fazlehussain Nulwala

**I,** Firozbhai R/o #301,3rd Floor, No-36 Abbas manzil 2nd Main Road Vinayaka Nagar Lucky Colony B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Firoz Salehbhai Nulwala

**I,** Abdul Subhan Abdul razak S/o Abdul Razak R/o 235/AGF HT Line Ilyas Nagar JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Abdul Subhan.

**I,** Mohammed Afzel Pasha R/o 235/AGF HT Line Ilyas Nagar JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Afzal Pasha.

**I,** Abdul Razack R/o 235/AGF HT Line Ilyas Nagar JP Nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Abdul Razaaq.

**I,** Radhika Satish W/o Satish Govindaraj R/o #63, Kathyayini Nilaya, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, New Extn, K R Puram, Bangalore -560036. have changed my name to Radhika Satish V for all official purposes.

**I,** SOWMYA MAHESH, Residing at No 477, 13th Cross, 28h Main J P Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to SOWMYA N vide affidavit dated 28/02/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** Anthonyamma A W/o Sounder Raj R/o A/2 22 BDA Flat,4th Main Road, Austin Town Neelasandra B'lore-560047 have changed my name to A Anthoniamma for all purposes.

**I,** Rashmi Ramaiah W/o Nishanth R, R/o No 367, 2nd Main 1st Stage, Beml Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru- 560079 have changed my name to Rashmi Nishanth for all purposes

**I,** Sunder Raj S S/o Samuel R/o A/2 22 BDA Flat,4th Main Road, Austin Town Neelasandra B'lore- 560047 have changed my name to Sounder Raj S for all purposes.

**HEALTH TIP:** During sleep, your body loses approximately one to two pounds of water through breathing and perspiration

Drink 16 ounces of room-temperature water within 15 minutes of waking, before coffee or breakfast

# Go nuts

## These recipes prove that walnuts are super versatile

## WALNUT FRENCH TOAST WITH WALNUT CREAM

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 medium eggs
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp honey + extra to serve
- 2 thick slices white bread
- 50 g walnut pieces, chopped + extra to serve
- 1 tbsp oil
- 10 g butter
- Walnut cream, fresh berries, or berry compote to serve

Method
- Mix together the eggs, milk, and honey in a shallow dish. Add the bread slices and soak on both sides until most of the egg mixture has been absorbed.
- Sprinkle the walnuts over one side of each slice and press in.
- Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan and gently fry the bread slices, walnut crusted side down first, for two minutes on each side or until golden.
- Halve each slice and serve drizzled with honey, fresh berries, or berry compote, and a dollop of walnut cream.

## WALNUT MEAT

**INGREDIENTS**
- ½ cup walnuts
- ¼ cup cooked lentils (masoor or moong)
- 1 small clove garlic
- ½ tsp cumin powder
- ¼ tsp red chilli powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 tsp soya sauce
- 1 tsp oil
- Mushrooms, thinly diced or shredded (optional)

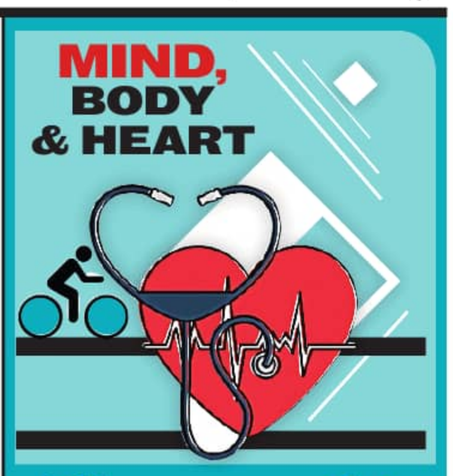
**METHOD**
- Dry roast the walnuts on a low flame for two to three minutes until aromatic. Remove and allow to cool slightly.
- Add all the ingredients – including the mushrooms, if using – to a food processor. Pulse a few times until you get a crumbly, minced texture. Do not over-process.
- Heat the oil in a nonstick pan, and lightly sauté the mixture for four to five minutes on a low flame, until slightly browned. Set aside.
- Note: Use this walnut 'meat' in your tacos, burger patties, pastas, and paratha fillings. Mushrooms will add a meatier texture.

## VANILLA & WALNUT WHIPPED CREAM

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2½ cups walnuts (divided usage)
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp powdered sugar
- 1 to 2 tsp honey (divided usage)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- A pinch of salt

**METHOD**
- Puree two cups of walnuts and water in a blender for two minutes or until very light and fluffy.
- Add the powdered sugar, one teaspoon of honey, vanilla extract, and salt, and blend for 30 seconds. Add more honey if you prefer a sweeter taste.
- To achieve a thicker whipped cream, add the remaining half cup of walnuts and puree until light and fluffy.
- Store tightly covered in the refrigerator until ready to use.

Recipes by California Walnuts for Femina, Images for illustrative purposes




## All you need to know about...

### Best iron combo

**Spinach and Lemon Juice**
Spinach and lemon juice are common sources of iron, but the iron contained in spinach takes time to digest. But by simply adding vitamin C, such as fresh lemon juice, to cooked or raw spinach, the vitamin C will help convert the non-heme iron into a form that your body can absorb easily.

**Chickpeas and Bell Peppers**
Chickpeas are plant-based iron. Like spinach, they also contain an iron that the body doesn't absorb easily. Where the bell pepper, which contains vitamin C, will enhance the absorption of iron. Mix them together, and the bell pepper will help to easily absorb the iron from chickpeas.

**Lentils With Tomatoes**
Lentils are loaded with iron and protein, which the body takes time to absorb, so cook them with tomatoes, which are rich in vitamin C. They are easy to digest and will make the iron in lentils absorb easily. This will help all the nutrients combine to work together.

**Pumpkin Seeds and Fruits**
Pumpkin seeds are one of the best vegetarian sources of iron, magnesium, and zinc, eating them plain will make it difficult for your body to absorb the iron efficiently. So pair them with vitamin C-rich fruits like strawberries or kiwi.

**Tofu and Broccoli Stir-Fry**
Tofu is packed with protein and naturally rich in iron, but plant-based foods rich in iron are difficult to absorb, so it requires vitamin C, contained in broccoli, which brings a high dose of vitamin C.

**Fortified Oats and Berries**
Iron fortified oats are specially enriched to give you an extra boost of this crucial mineral, which is far better than plain oats. Pairing them with berries will make one of the easiest meals to upgrade your iron.

**UN Security Council to meet**
The United Nations Security Council has called an emergency meeting at 10 pm CET to address the situation in Iran and the Middle East

# Under attack, Iran retaliates

## US, Israel launch strikes on Iran; Trump asks Iranians to 'rise' against leadership

The US and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday, and US President Donald Trump called on the Iranian public to "seize control of your destiny" by rising up against the Islamic leadership that has ruled the nation since 1979.

Iran retaliated by launching missiles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Some of the first strikes on Iran appeared to hit areas around the offices of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Smoke could be seen rising from the capital as part of strikes that Iranian media said occurred nationwide. It wasn't immediately clear whether the 86-year-old leader was in his office when the attack occurred.

Egypt's top diplomat has discussed the military escalation in the Middle East with his counterparts in several regional and European countries, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Germany and France.

Congress was notified before the strikes on Iran, as required by law.

The notifications mentioned ballistic missiles, but didn't indicate that the strikes would be so expansive or the goals so broad, according to a person familiar with the notifications who requested anonymity to discuss them.

Saudi Arabia said Iran targeted its capital and its eastern region in an attack.

The government reported the attack in an announcement on its state-run Saudi Press Agency. It called the attack "blatant and cowardly" and said it was repelled.

One of the senior U.S. lawmakers recently briefed by Trump administration officials on Iran says that the United States is entering a "war of choice."

### Condemnation & concern

China's government said it is "highly concerned" about the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran and called for an immediate halt to the military actions and a return to negotiations.

"Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected," a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said.

Oman's top diplomat has urged the U.S. "not to get sucked in further" to a conflict with Iran. Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi urged the United States not to get sucked in further. "This is not your war," he wrote.

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Saturday condemned the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran as "a preplanned and unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent U.N. member state." It demanded an immediate halt to the military campaign and a return to diplomacy. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar condemned what he described as "unwarranted attacks" on Iran.

India also voiced deep concern at the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region. In a statement the Ministry of External Affairs said, "We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians. Dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected."

**–Agencies**

**Protesters gather with Iranian national flags during a demonstration in support of the government and against US and Israeli strikes outside a mosque in Tehran on Saturday**

# Travellers at sea as chaos hits airspace

Airlines suspended flights across the Middle East on Saturday, including to and from the world's busiest travel hub Dubai, after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, plunging the region into a renewed military confrontation.

Flight maps showed airspace over Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Israel and Bahrain virtually empty as Israel said it struck Iran and the U.S. military initiated a series of strikes against targets in the country. Iran retaliated with a salvo of missiles.

Witnesses told Reuters about explosions across the Gulf, including in Qatar's Doha, which hosts the biggest U.S. military base in the Middle East, as well as Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates - key regional transport hubs.

Dubai Airports said all flights at Dubai International, which handled nearly 100 million passengers last year, as well as the smaller Al Maktoum International airport, were suspended until further notice, urging passengers not to travel.

"Due to multiple regional airspace closures, Emirates has temporarily suspended operations to and from Dubai," the Dubai-based carrier said, while its sister airline flydubai said it had temporarily suspended operations.

Etihad Airways said all flights scheduled to depart Abu Dhabi were suspended until 1000 GMT on Sunday, and flights expected to arrive at the Gulf hub before that time would be cancelled. "Flights already en route to Abu Dhabi are returning to their origin airports where required," it added.

### Strikes deepen regional turmoil

The escalation dimmed hopes for a diplomatic solution to Tehran's nuclear dispute with the West and reignited conflict after weeks of U.S. military buildup in the region.

It marks the latest upheaval for air travel in the usually busy region amid escalating tensions. Airports in the Middle East are some of the busiest in the world, covering an area stretching from Iran and Iraq to the Mediterranean and serving as a connecting hub for flights between Europe and Asia.

### Flights rerouted, passengers stranded

Airlines have cancelled almost 40% of flights to Israel and 6.7% of flights to the broader region on Saturday, according to preliminary Cirium data. That number seems likely to rise.

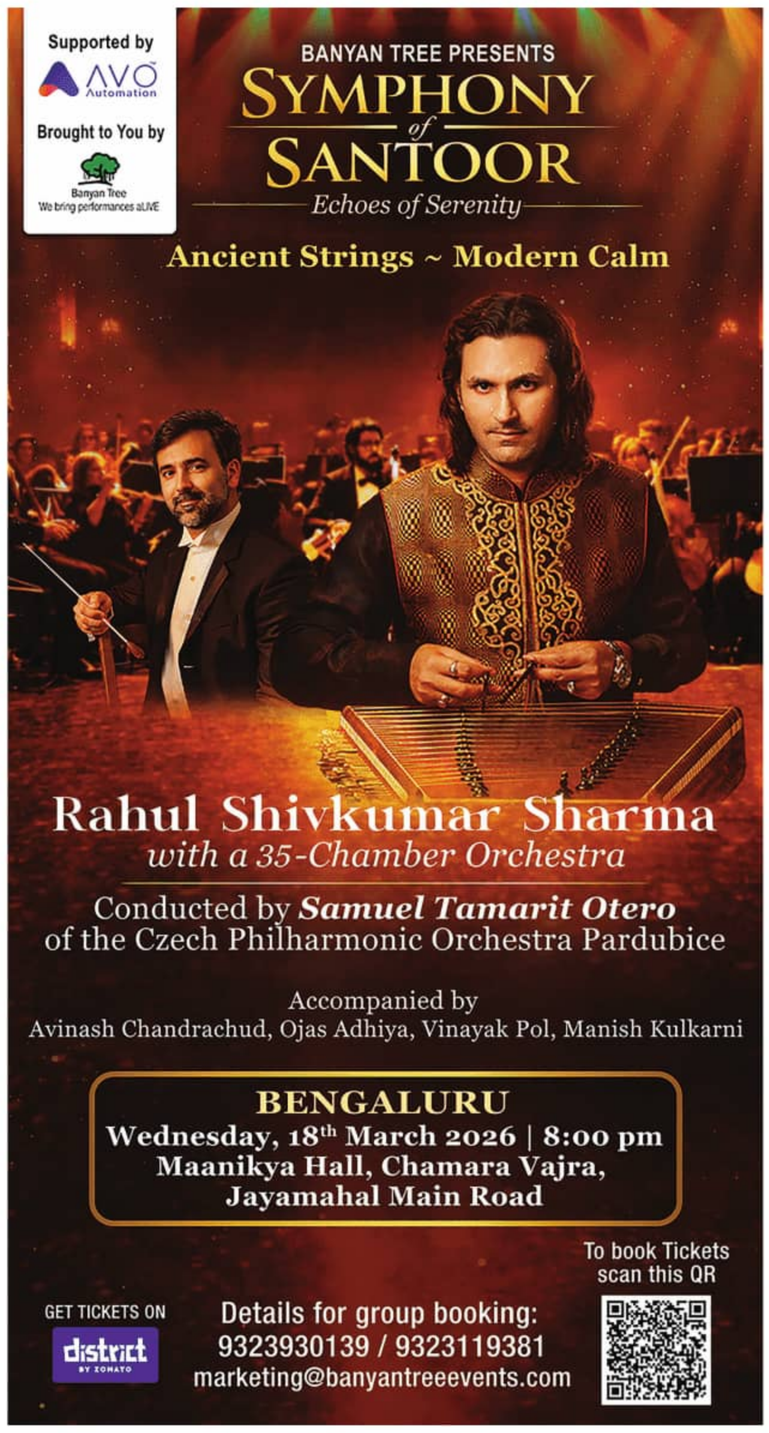
At Doha's Hamad International Airport, gates appeared almost empty, while stranded passengers queued to make hotel arrangements. There was uncertainty about when flight schedules would resume, a Reuters witness reported.

**–Reuters**

### Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram airports issue advisory

Amid escalating tensions in the Middle East region and temporary closures across multiple international airspaces, both Mangaluru International Airport in Karnataka and Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala have issued passenger advisories cautioning travellers about possible flight disruptions.
In their advisories posted on X, both airports stated, "Due to temporary closures and restrictions affecting international airspaces, certain international flights may experience delays or rerouting. Passengers are advised to check the latest flight status with their respective airlines before travelling to the airport and plan their journey accordingly..."

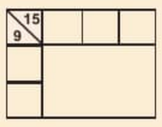
**–ANI**



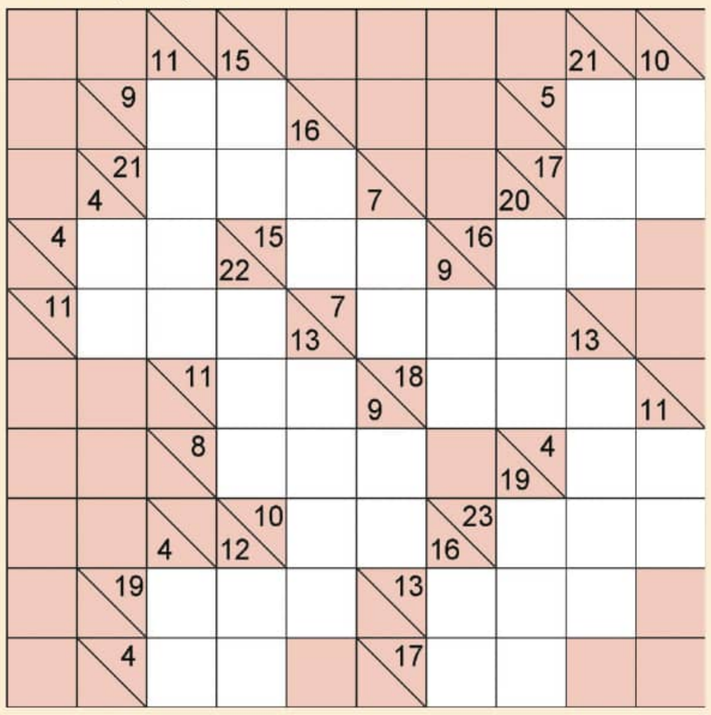
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

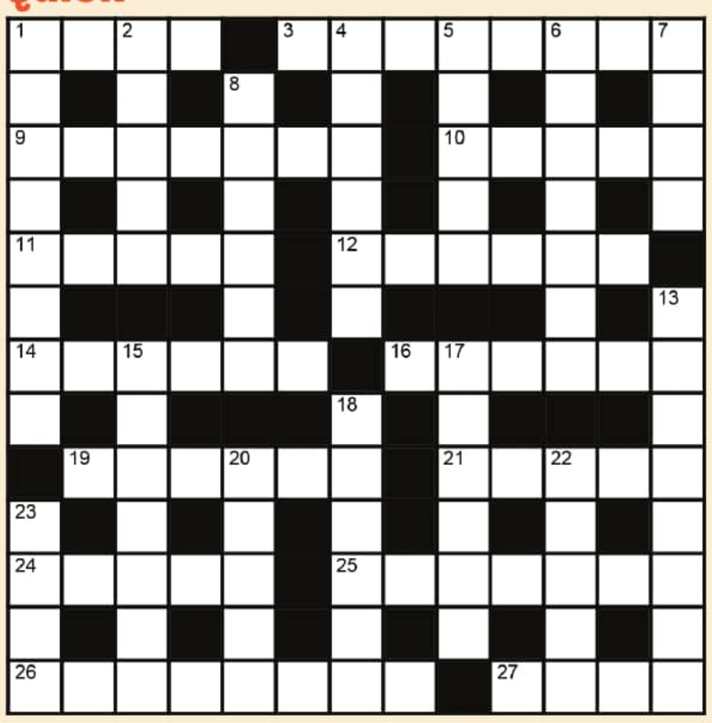
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Source of inspiration (4)
3 Steinway players? (8)
9 Chest sections (7)
10 Furious (5)
11 Lawful colloquially speaking (5)
12 Standards of perfection (6)
14 Queasiness (6)
16 Modifies (6)
19 Cold season (6)
21 Old Greek coins (5)
24 Similar (5)
25 Hang with garlands (7)
26 Remittances? (8)
27 Not as new (4)

**DOWN**

1 Interfering unnecessarily (8)
2 Argot (5)
4 Inject; insinuate (6)
5 Bete ___ : Anathema (5)
6 Thin slice of meat (7)
7 Threw off (4)
8 Boil with anger (6)
13 Handed over or allotted (8)
15 ___ Building: Skyscraper on M G Road (7)
17 Edema (6)
18 Opposite of loss (6)
20 At that place (5)
22 Double-reeds (5)
23 Catch one's breath (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: N EQUALS S**

JXX NIKKANNZIX VAYGXIQL-GRN JVA QTA DLKDLRS LR GZ J VGQQAR PGGV.

## Linemaro

You breathe oxygen? We have so much in common

## Mindchow

Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind is written large in his works

## Joke of the day

L.A. is so celebrity conscious, there's a restaurant that only serves Jack Nicholson – and when he shows up, they tell him there'll be a ten minute wait

## Loop

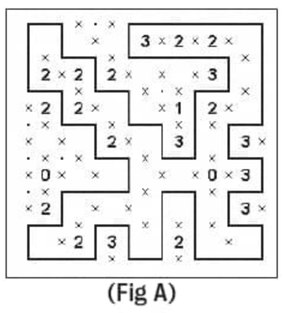
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

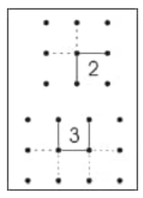
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

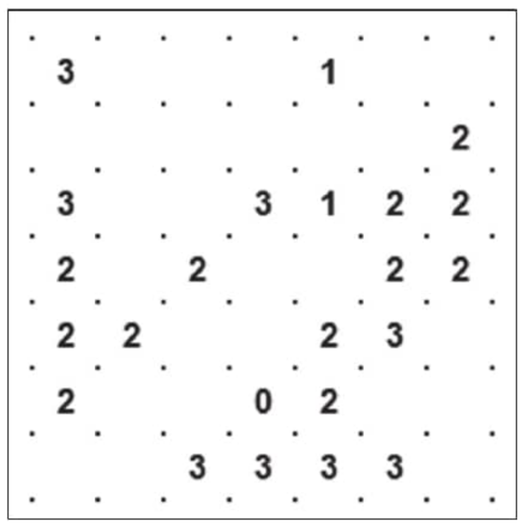
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



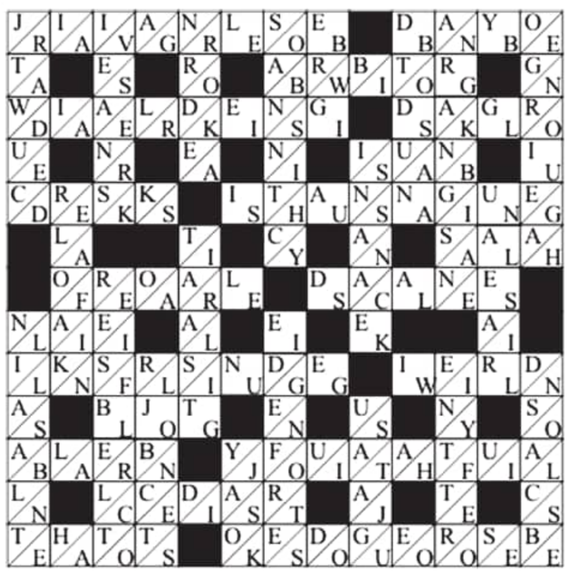
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | W | | | |

**ACROSS**

1 Serfs; 6 Are at; 7 Poets; 8 Eva in; 9 Waned

**DOWN**

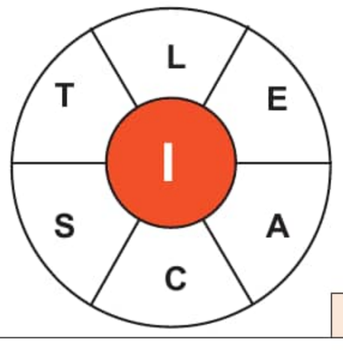
1 A fern; 2 Wears; 3 An tee; 4 Votes; 5 Dip as

## Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the blank and completes the sequence?

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 |
| | 8 |

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | 2 | 5 | | 1 | 6 | | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | 4 | | 9 | | | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | | | 6 | | | 9 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 7 | | | 4 | | | 5 | 1 |
| 9 | | | 2 | | 7 | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 5 | | 4 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 14

1 2 8 9

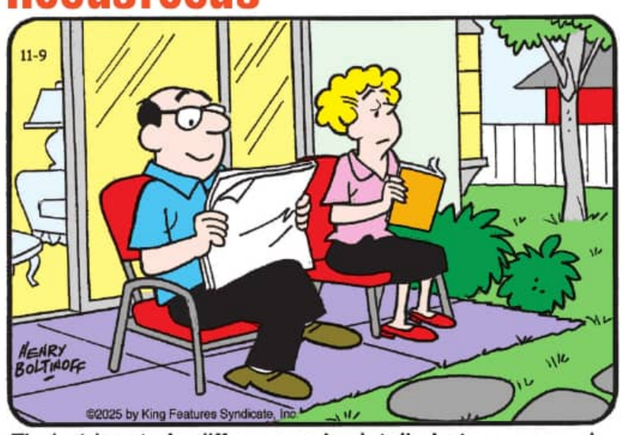
**Medium** = 16

7 9 9 9

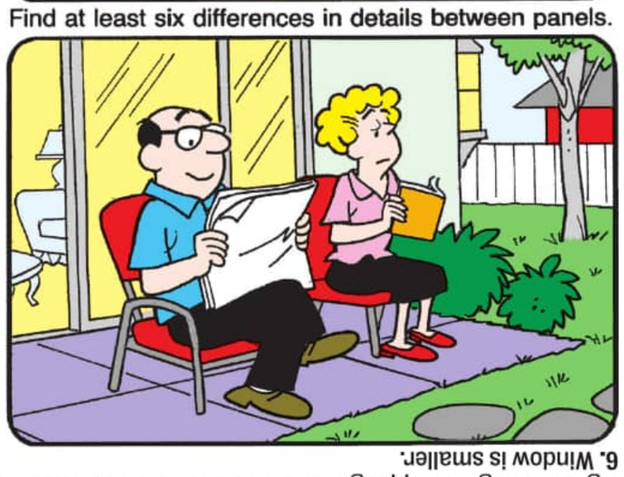
**Hard** = 24

2 8 8 4

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.



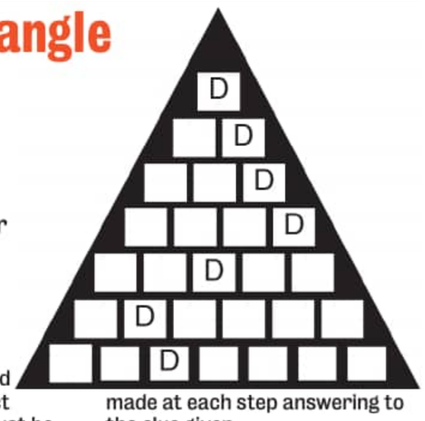
**Differences:** 1. Foot is moved. 2. Lamp is smaller. 3. Chair leg is missing. 4. Stepping stone is smaller. 5. Book is smaller. 6. Window is smaller.

## Riddler

Two bikes are travelling toward each other at a constant speed of 10 mph. When the bikes are 20 miles apart, a bee flies from the front wheel of one of the bikes toward the other bike at a constant speed of 25 mph. As soon as it reaches the front wheel of the other bike, it immediately turns around and flies at 25 mph toward the first bike. It continues this pattern until the two bikes smush the bee between the two front tires. How far did the bee travel?

## Alpha triangle

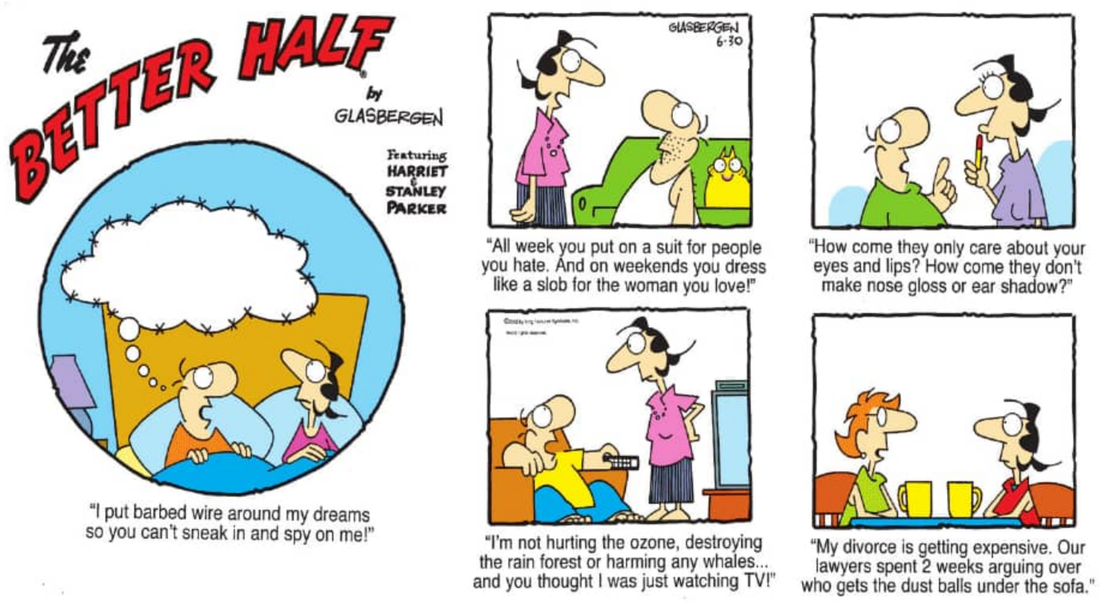
1 500 in numerals
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Disburden
4 Incursion
5 Wireless
6 Artful, clever
7 Accounts checker

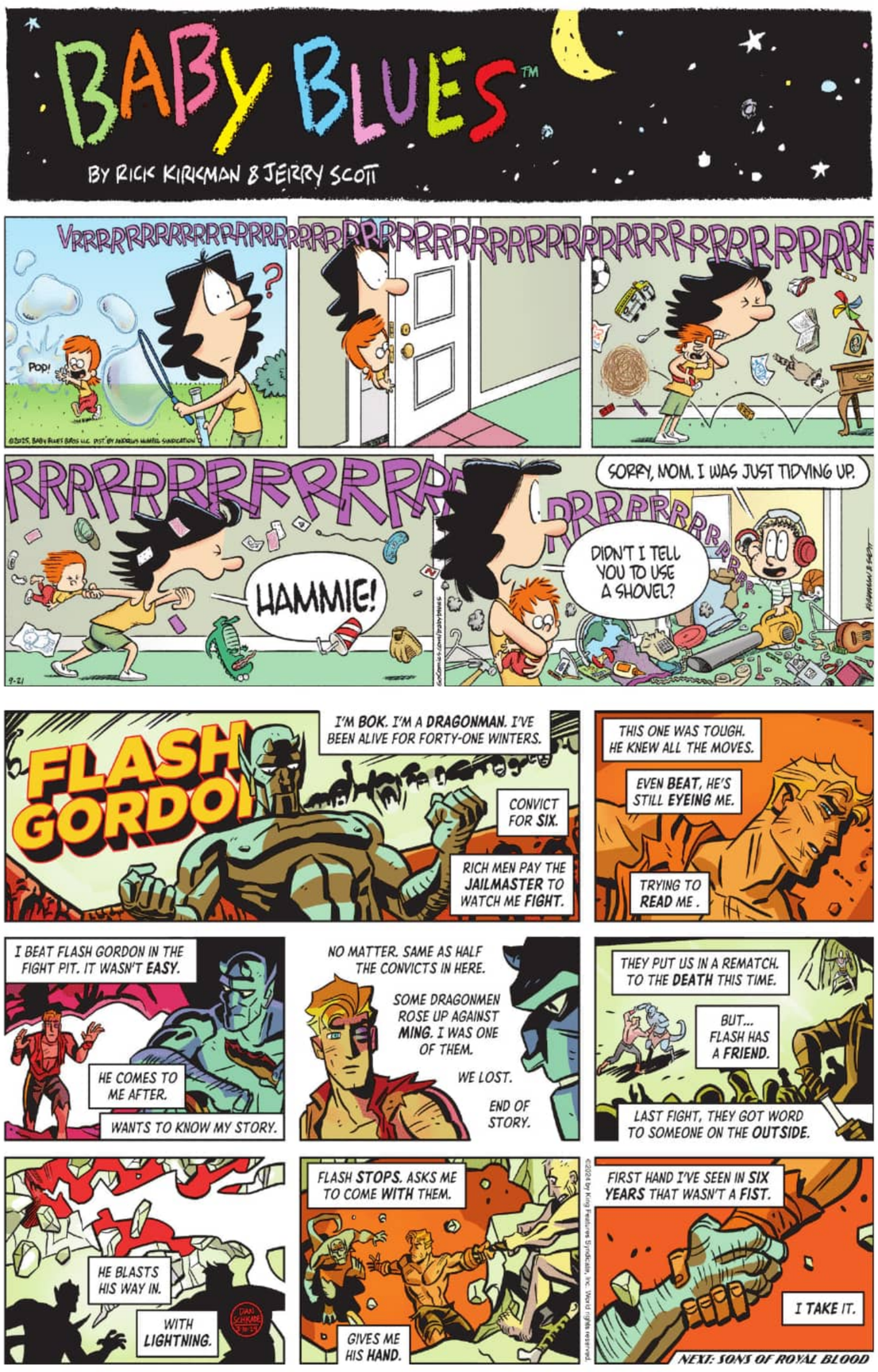



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I put barbed wire around my dreams so you can't sneak in and spy on me!"
GLASBERGEN 6-30
"All week you put on a suit for people you hate. And on weekends you dress like a slob for the woman you love!"
"How come they only care about your eyes and lips? How come they don't make nose gloss or ear shadow?"
"I'm not hurting the ozone, destroying the rain forest or harming any whales... and you thought I was just watching TV!"
"My divorce is getting expensive. Our lawyers spent 2 weeks arguing over who gets the dust balls under the sofa."


BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
VRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
POP!
HAMMIE!
SORRY, MOM. I WAS JUST TIDYING UP.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO USE A SHOVEL?
FLASH GORDON
I'M BOK. I'M A DRAGONMAN. I'VE BEEN ALIVE FOR FORTY-ONE WINTERS.
CONVICT FOR SIX.
RICH MEN PAY THE JAILMASTER TO WATCH ME FIGHT.
THIS ONE WAS TOUGH. HE KNEW ALL THE MOVES.
EVEN BEAT, HE'S STILL EYEING ME.
TRYING TO READ ME .
I BEAT FLASH GORDON IN THE FIGHT PIT. IT WASN'T EASY.
HE COMES TO ME AFTER.
WANTS TO KNOW MY STORY.
NO MATTER. SAME AS HALF THE CONVICTS IN HERE.
SOME DRAGONMEN ROSE UP AGAINST MING. I WAS ONE OF THEM.
WE LOST.
END OF STORY.
THEY PUT US IN A REMATCH. TO THE DEATH THIS TIME.
BUT... FLASH HAS A FRIEND.
LAST FIGHT, THEY GOT WORD TO SOMEONE ON THE OUTSIDE.
HE BLASTS HIS WAY IN.
WITH LIGHTNING.
FLASH STOPS. ASKS ME TO COME WITH THEM.
GIVES ME HIS HAND.
FIRST HAND I'VE SEEN IN SIX YEARS THAT WASN'T A FIST.
I TAKE IT.
NEXT: SONS OF ROYAL BLOOD

# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

## If it's your birthday today

You begin life with quiet confidence, and this month amplifies it. Love feels supportive and sincere, strengthening emotional bonds. Career efforts gain recognition through consistency. Financial choices feel steady and rewarding. Travel brings perspective rather than escape. At home, comfort and meaningful conversations ground you, helping you feel secure while stepping bravely toward long-term goals.

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Over the next forty eight hours, act fast and fiercely if your interests are threatened. Obstacles demand bolder choices, so prepare to stand your ground, confront rivals, and bruise egos.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Countless possibilities surround you now, making decisions feel overwhelming. Step away from constant activity, review each option carefully, then choose one path to commit your energy, focus, and time wholeheartedly.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Strong career influences may inspire thoughts of changing jobs or professions. That is acceptable, but avoid rushing choices. Slow down, weigh details, seek clarity, and ensure any move fits you.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Even if you usually prefer safe boundaries, this weekend sparks curiosity and wanderlust. Step beyond comfort zones, explore freely, and discover experiences, places, and connections waiting outside familiar surroundings there.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your intuition senses something significant approaching, though logic cannot explain it yet. Instead of forcing answers, relax, stay open, and allow unfolding events to surprise, delight, and teach you something.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Stars favor all relationships now, encouraging connection with friends and family. Plan enjoyable moments together this weekend, release duties temporarily, and savor laughter, warmth, and companionship you deeply value today.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Refuse to stay boxed in by others expectations of you. Do something bold this weekend, proving you control your destiny, even if it shocks people and disrupts comfortable assumptions around.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Follow only what feels right this weekend, regardless of criticism. Others may call it reckless, but planetary support empowers you, granting freedom, confidence, and surprising immunity from consequences right now.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
The harder someone pushes you into their personal drama this weekend, the more firmly you must decline. Planetary warnings suggest involvement brings trouble, so politely excuse yourself and keep distance.

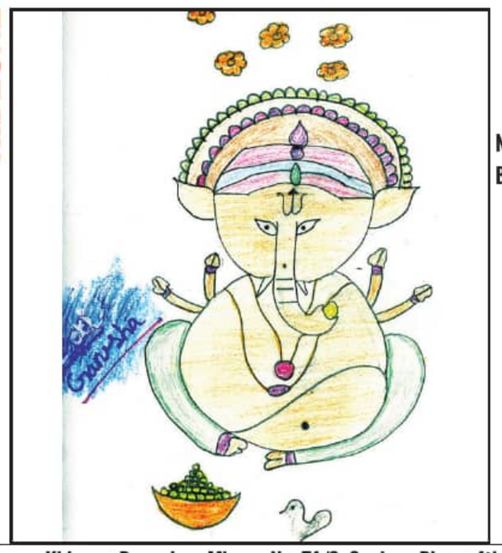
**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Anyone expecting you to quit a difficult project will be mistaken. Commitment defines you, and once pledged, perseverance becomes personal honour, driving you to complete what you began successfully proudly.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Multiple options exist for you now, beyond the single path others promote. Trust your independence, embrace originality, and boldly move toward a fresh direction without hesitation starting today confidently ahead.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Clear thinking comes easily today, helping you make sensible decisions. Ignore external pressure about chosen paths, trust your intelligence, and follow wherever your reasoning confidently leads with calm certainty now.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE



Nikitha, Bengaluru

Dhanush Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
1 - 3 = - 2

**RIDDLER**
25 miles. The easiest way to think about this is to consider the time. The bikes will take 1 hour to touch, given that they start 20 miles apart and are each travelling toward each other at 10 mph. Therefore the bee is buzzing back and forth at 25 mph for 1 hour.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
All successful revolutions are the kicking in of a rotten door.

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | R | E | S | S |
| E | S | T | O | P |
| R | E | A | T | A |
| N | A | E | V | I |
| A | W | N | E | D |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | A | V | A | N | E | S | E | B | A | B | E | | | |
| A | E | O | A | R | B | O | R | N | | | | | | |
| W | I | E | L | D | I | N | G | S | A | G | O | | | |
| E | R | E | I | S | U | B | U | | | | | | | |
| D | E | S | K | S | T | U | N | N | I | N | G | | | |
| L | A | T | S | K | E | D | A | R | E | E | | | | |
| B | L | E | B | Y | O | U | T | H | F | U | L | | | |
| A | L | O | T | N | S | N | O | | | | | | | |
| I | N | F | R | I | N | G | E | W | I | L | D | | | |
| L | I | E | A | I | K | A | | | | | | | | |
| F | R | O | R | E | S | C | A | N | S | | | | | |
| L | | T | | Y | A | | A | A | H | | | | | |
| E | A | T | S | | K | E | D | G | E | R | E | E | | |
| L | | C | E | D | A | R | | A | | E | | C | | |
| B | L | E | | Y | O | U | T | | F | U | L | | | |
| A | | L | O | T | | N | | S | | N | | O | | |
| I | N | F | R | I | N | G | E | | W | I | L | D | | |
| L | I | E | A | I | | K | | | | | A | | | |
| F | R | O | R | E | | S | C | A | N | S | | | | |
| L | | | T | | Y | | A | | A | A | H | | | |
| D | E | S | K | | S | T | U | N | | I | N | G | | |
| E | R | | E | | I | | S | U | B | | U | | | |
| W | I | E | L | D | I | N | G | | S | A | G | O | | |
| A | | E | | O | | A | R | B | O | R | | N | | |
| J | A | V | A | N | E | S | E | | B | A | B | E | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | Y | M | E | N | T | S | | U | S | E | D | | |
| S | | T | | R | | I | | | E | | | E | | |
| A | L | I | K | E | | F | E | S | T | O | O | N | | |
| G | | L | | H | | O | | P | | B | | G | | |
| W | I | N | T | E | R | | O | B | O | L | | I | | |
| G | | T | | P | | R | | | | | | S | | |
| N | A | U | S | E | A | | A | D | A | P | T | S | | |
| I | | | | H | | L | | | | | | A | | |
| L | E | G | I | T | | I | | D | E | A | L | S | | |
| D | | N | | E | | T | | R | | L | | D | | |
| D | R | A | W | E | R | S | | I | R | A | T | E | | |
| E | | L | | S | | N | | O | | C | | H | | |
| M | U | S | E | | P | I | A | N | I | S | T | S | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
13. Starting at the top, add the two numbers together to give the left hand number underneath. The right hand number is the same as the left hand number above.

**BULL'S EYE**
aisle, cite, EASTIC, isle, islet, Ilce, list, sall, silt, site, slice, slit, stile, tall, tile

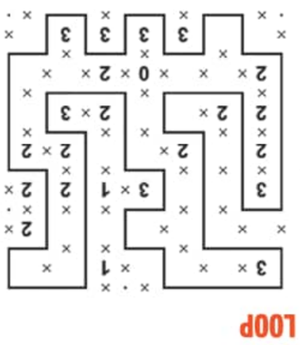
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
D, Id, Rid, Raid, Radio, Adroit, Auditor.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
9 + 8 - 1 - 2 = 14
Medium
7 + 9 + 9 - 9 = 16
Hard
8 x 4 / 2 + 8 = 24

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

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## CRYPTIC CLUE

### When Deepika shares reflective post on social media

Deepika Padukone has let a rather cryptic post on her Instagram handle do all the talking amid the chatter surrounding her declined audition for 'The White Lotus 4'.

The actress took over top trends on social media when a report by Variety India claimed that she was invited to audition as part of the casting process. Amid the speculation, Deepika shared a reflective note that read, "Becoming calm is the loudest flex. Anyone can lose their s**t, react fast, talk loud, and make noise. That takes zero strength."

"Real power shows up when chaos hits, and you don't fold. When drama tries to pull you in, and you stay grounded. When life pokes you again and again, and you still choose control over impulse. Yeah, it takes work."

It continued, "It takes unlearning bullshit reactions, sitting with discomfort, and not letting emotions run the show. Calm isn't weakness; it's mastery. It's knowing you don't have to prove anything, explain everything, or react to everyone. While others burn energy panicking, you move quietly, clearly, and on purpose. In a world addicted to noise, staying calm is a damn superpower." While the actress did not reference any specific situation, the timing of the post has fuelled speculation among fans that it may be a post aimed at all the trolls. The development also coincides with reports surrounding her husband, Ranveer Singh, and his upcoming film 'Dhurandhar 2'.

The sequel, which is slated for a March 19 release, is expected to clash with 'Toxic', starring Yash. Rumours have suggested that the makers of the Hindi spy film, may postpone the release to avoid the box office face-off.

**—ETimes**

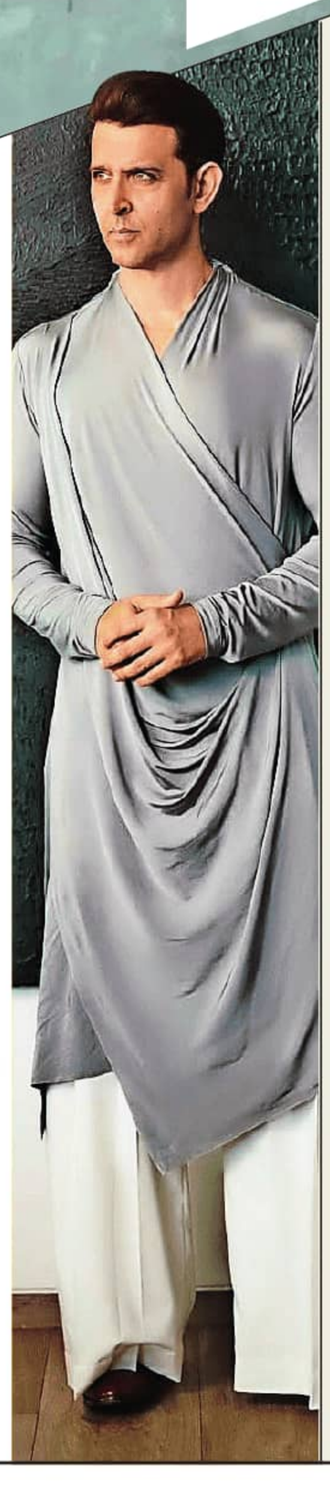
## Lovely surprise

The makers of Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's film, 'Ranabaali', dropped the first song, 'Endhayya Saami', from the film as a special tribute to the couple's new chapter in life. And now, the actress has reacted to the surprise released by the producers. She expressed that they had no idea about the music video.

The song features a poignant sequence from the period drama, capturing Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna's

characters as they tie the knot and step into his home, observing every traditional ritual. It beautifully traces the gradual blossoming of their love story, unfolding with tenderness and emotional depth. Towards the end of the music video, a caption appears, which reads, "Happy married life, Vijay & Rashmika."

Reacting to the same, Rashmika took to her Instagram Story and wrote, "This is such a lovely surprise for us (heart-shaped hands emojis), and now it's a surprise for you too (white heart emojis). This is us, Ranabaali and Jayamma.". **— ETimes**



## Good air day

On Thursday, Mumbai's air turned notably cleaner, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) dipping to 89 and entering the 'moderate' zone. The change was evident citywide, prompting residents to flood social media with snaps of vivid blue heavens. Even Hrithik Roshan weighed in, giving a shoutout to the BMC for steering things the right way.

Hrithik took to Instagram Stories to share his praise: "Well done, more of this please." AQI readings of 51-100 qualify as moderate, meaning the air is suitable for the majority. Sensitive individuals, however, could still experience mild effects.

Hrithik also denied rumours that he had replaced Ranveer Singh as the lead in 'Don 3' after Singh's departure from the sequel. Hrithik shut down the speculation: "What started off as just a rumour has now taken a life of its own, and it's important to set the record straight. I would like to categorically clarify that I was never approached for 'Don 3' at any given time. I request the media to steer clear of any such unverified reports." He stressed no offer ever came his way. **— ETimes**

## Message of equality

### THE RISE OF ASHOKA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Vinod V Dondale
- **ACTORS** Satish Ninasam, Sapthami Gowda, B Suresha, Sampath Maithreya Gopalkrishna Deshpande
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 133 minutes

The Rise of Ashoka is the first film of late Vinod V Dondale, who ended his life by suicide on July 20, 2024. The film was earlier titled Ashoka Blade. It mirrors the tussle between middlemen and workers at temples in Karnataka. The specialty of the movie, despite too many violent scenes, is that it blends elements such as romance and emotions with a message to the society that all humans are equal.

The movie is about the plight of the barber community at Avarathi village in Mysuru where Kutti Babji (Sampath Maithreya) exploits barbers engaged to tonsure the heads of devotees. Kutti Babji pays a meagre amount to the barbers and is ruthless towards those who demand minimum wages. Gangaraju (B Suresha), one of the barbers, wants his son Ashoka (Satish Ninasam) to become a government employee. He advises Ashok to focus on getting a government job and not interfere in the matters pertaining to Kutti Babji. When Ashoka sees Ambika (Sapthami Gowda), a beautiful girl from his community, and falls in love with her. Ashoka is set to get a government job and also marry Ambika. That is when an incident compels him to decide to work for his community in the village. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Ashoka and Ambika.

Satish Ninasam, who earned fame for his performance in Ayogya, has acted well in action scenes. Sapthami Gowda, who debuted in Popcorn Monkey Tiger, looks glamorous and meets the audiences' expectations but she has to improve her acting skills to make the emotional moments more authentic. Sampath Maithreya is convincing as a vicious villain who goes to any extent to punish his opponents ruthlessly. Gopalkrishna Deshpande, B Suresha, Yash Shetty, Dragon Manju, and Jagadish Kumar have given good support. Ravi Shankar, known for playing villainous roles, has played a different role in the movie.

Music by Poornachandra Tejasvi is good and the songs are melodious. Cinematographer Lavith has done a good job.

Had the director avoided one or two gory scenes, the movie would have been a good entertainer.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch for those who don't enjoy 'masala' movies.

**—Y Maheswara Reddy**

## 'Don't want to look 25'

Naomi Watts isn't afraid to embrace aging. The 57-year-old actress candidly spoke about her stance on plastic surgery.

Speaking with Bustle for a story published on Thursday, the actress opened up about founding Stripes Beauty, her holistic beauty company for aging women, and said her views on health and beauty have changed since she entered her 50s. According to Watts, one of the most "freeing" beauty realizations she's had in the past decade came when she decided that she doesn't want to try to "look how I once did," and instead is focusing on "just embracing myself at this point in time."

"I think you get to a certain age, and you know what works for you and you just stick with it. I don't want to look 25 anymore or look like someone who's fighting to look 25," she shared.

Watts also shared she hasn't had "the nerve" for plastic surgery, and is "interested in putting myself forward as I am." "For now, I hope other people around me can tolerate my drooping jowls, because right now I don't want to go under the knife. I can't say I'm for or against at this moment, but I certainly would never judge those who do it," she said. **—ETimes**